# Golf and Nonpotable Water in the Coachella Valley

## First golf course in the valley...

...was the O'Donnell in 1926, second was Indian Palms (used to be Cochran-Odlum) in 1947, third Thunderbird 1951...



### Now, there are 120 golf courses in the valley!

#### Irrigation Water Sources for Golf Courses Update: February 24, 2020



# 105 of the golf courses are within CVWD's boundaries.

30.5	Canal via Canal distribution system
3.0	Future Canal via Canal distribution system
6	Canal via Mid Valley Pipeline
17	Future Canal via Mid Valley Pipeline
17.5	Recycled water/canal
21	Future Recycled water/canal
10	Not planned for an Alternate Water Supply
105	Total Golf Courses:
54	Nonpotable Water Source:
51%	Per Cent Using Nonpotable Water Source:

## Sources of golf course irrigation water:



#### How much water is used by a golf course annually?

It depends primarily on the ETo zone, irrigated acreage and lake area. Anywhere from about 300 AF/Yr for our smaller courses in a protected area to about 1400 AF/Yr for our large courses in the windy areas. Average of 998 AF/Yr.



 Zone #1: North-facing cove areas: Mountain shaded, sheltered from prevailing winds and higher elevations means lowest water consumption. Annual water consumption(ETo) = 57.01"

2. Zone #2: Transition zone area between the north-facing coves and the open desert or the south-facing cove areas of the north valley: The transition zones are somewhat sheltered from prevailing winds and with exposure to higher local humidity from irrigated landscapes means low water consumption. North valley coves are mountain shaded, sheltered from prevailing winds and higher elevations, but are south-facing and heat absorbing. Annual water consumption(ETO) = 66.82"

 Zone #3: Upper valley open desert border zone, lower valley upper elevation zone or lower valley afternoon mountain shade zones with moderate prevailing winds and blowing sand. Annual water consumption(ETo) = 76.00"

Zone #4: Lower valley open desert agricultural zone with moderate prevailing winds and below sea level elevations. Annual water consumption(ETo) = 88.00"

Legend Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3 Zone 4 Zone 5 Center Lines District Boundary

Zone #5: Upper valley high wind and blowing sand zone. Annual water consumption = 93.90"

## Average water use for a golf course



The average water use on a golf course is around 998 acft/yr.

To make it easy, we round up to say that "a typical golf course uses 1,000 acft per year".

Golf Courses in the valley use up to 120,000 acft of water per year.

## What's the big deal?

USGS report published in 2020.

- CVWD and USGS study since 1996.
- Detection and measurement of land subsidence and uplift from 2010-2017.
- Yellow and red show areas of subsidence.
  - Up to 1.4ft



## **Overdraft and subsidence.**



# To minimize and eliminate further overdraft, the aquifer has been replenished with imported water.



## In the mid-valley, mostly West, there are 38 golf courses available for in-lieu recharge opportunities.



In-lieu of delivering imported water to percolation ponds to replenish the aquifer, a nonpotable water source is delivered to golf courses for irrigation, leaving groundwater in the ground.

## 2022 Indio Sub-basin Water Management Plan Update

#### 2022 INDIO SUBBASIN

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan



Volume 1: Alternative Plan
Adopted | December 2021

http://www.indiosubbasinsgma.org/

Prepared for: Indio Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies



The goal of the ISWMP is to reliably meet current and future water demands in a cost effective and sustainable manner. Per the ISWMP...

In order to maintain water reliability and resilience, the following priorities are used when selecting Projects and Management Actions:

• Fully use available Colorado River water supplies.

• Continue developing recycled water as a reliable local water supply.

• Implement source substitution and replenishment for resilience in response to changing conditions and for maintaining long-term groundwater supply reliability.

• Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors.

## ISWMP objectives for golf courses:

- Conservation
- Utilize nonpotable water sources for golf courses.





## **Golf and Water Task Force**

**Mission Statement** 

To ensure a sustainable water supply for future generations, to meet if not exceed the goals of the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan, to pursue all feasible water conservation measures, to promote and expedite the use of nonpotable water, and to educate Valley residents regarding the importance of pursuing these goals for the environmental and economic quality of life in the Coachella Valley.

## Nonpotable Water for In-Lieu Recharge

- Types of nonpotable water source for golf courses:
- 1. Canal Water (Colorado River Water)
  - Mid-Valley Pipeline
  - Coachella Branch of All American Canal
  - Canal water distribution system.

#### 2. Recycled Water

- Water Reclamation Plant (WRP7 or WRP10)
- Tertiary Disinfected Recycled Water
- ✓ Nonpotable Water for nonpotable purposes.
  - Nonpotable customers irrigate with a water source that is not deemed safe for drinking.
  - Primary water source is no longer groundwater, our potable water source.





East Valley Canal water connections:

In 2022, 21,082AF, 74% of their total irrigation demand.

- Goal = up to 33,500 AFY
- 3 more golf courses to connect

Mid Valley NPW connections:

In 2022, 24,533 AF, 93% of total irrigation demand.

- Goal = up to 61,500 AFY
- 38 more golf courses to connect

Goal = 80%

#### **Source of Canal Water**



## Conversion of golf courses to canal water

The 3 remaining conversions are expected to be completed by 2025.



2022La Quinta Resorts Mountain



- Recycled water has been a water supply source in the Valley since 1965 at Palm Desert Country Club. CVWD acquired this WRP in 1968.
- CVWD has 2 wastewater treatment plants that provide recycled water for golf course and landscape irrigation.
- CVWD delivers disinfected tertiary recycled water for golf course and landscape irrigation.

#### What is Recycled Water?

Municipal wastewater collected from homes and businesses that receives a high level of treatment at a water reclamation plant. It is monitored 24/7, water quality samples are collected and tested to ensure permit regulation limitations are met, so that it can safely be beneficially reused. It is no longer considered wastewater.







## **Rules and Regulations**

- Dos and Don'ts
- Training
- Permit
- Agreement
- Purple
- Signs
- Public notification
- Cross-connection Test
- Quarterly Survey
- Monitoring and Reporting





POTABLEWATER SERVICE & METER



RECYCLED WATER



## Allowed Uses of Recycled Water

	Treatment Level			nt Level		
Recycled Water Use	Disinfected Tertiary Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary 2.2 Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary 23 Recycled Water	Undisinfected Secondary Recycled Water		
Irrigation for:						
Food crops where recycled water contacts the edible portion of the crop, including all root crops	ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED		
Parks and playgrounds	and a second					
School grounds						
Residential landscaping						
Unrestricted-access golf courses						
Any other irrigation uses not specifically prohibited by other provisions of the California Code of Regulations						
Food crops, surface-irrigated, above-ground edible portion, not contacted by recycled water		ALLOWED				
Cemetaries		and an and	ALLOWED			
Freeway landscaping						
Restricted-access golf courses						
Ornamental nursery stock and sod farms with unrestricted public access						
Pasture for milk animals for human consumption						
N						



\*Not included as Title 22 use of recycled water. Water Board reports 728,000 AFY in Title 22 uses

Source: WateReuse California

#### **Recycled Water Use in Coachella Valley**

#### Golf Course and landscape irrigation:

- Golf Courses
- Home-Owner Associations (HOAs)
- High-School Athletic Fields
- Landscaped areas at CVWD's Palm Desert offices and WRPs.
- Agriculture (near future)

#### 10 Reasons Why We Use Recycle Water in Coachella Valley

- 1. Department of Water Resources projects large statewide shortages.
- 2. Groundwater is our drinking water source (Potable/Domestic).
- 3. Groundwater could become adjudicated.
- CVWD adopted and is implementing the ISWMP to eliminate overdraft and is our Groundwater Sustainability Plan, which identifies recycled water as a reliable local water supply for irrigation.
- 5. Irrigating with Recycled Water Saves Groundwater.

- 6. Future groundwater overdraft must be prevented.
- 7. Use potable water for potable purposes and non-potable for non-potable purposes.
- 8. Treatment technology can produce a safe recycled water for any given use.
- 9. RW for irrigation more economical than advanced treatment for potable reuse.
- 10. More economical than buying additional imported water rights.

### Not enough recycled water



- Recycled water supply is not a sufficient water supply for all golf courses in the mid-valley area.
- Recycled water supply is limited in the summer and golf courses would supplement with groundwater.

## Mid-Valley Pipeline In-Lieu Project



- The MVP delivers canal water to WRP10. Completed in 2009. 7 mile, 54" pipeline of welded steel with cement mortar lining in the wash.
- Canal water supplements the recycled water supply and provided to golf courses in lieu of their pumping groundwater.

\*In 2022, MVP provided 13,208 acft of canal water to golf courses in the mid-valley area.







### Nonpotable Water use in Mid-Valley

Year	WRP NPW	
2000	8831.9	
2001	8565.2	
2002	8299.4	
2003	6844.2	
2004	8208.9	
2005	8109.3	
2006	9342.7	
2007	10127.0	
2008	9750.2	
2009	11047.4	L
2010	11874.9	
2011	12281.2	
2012	12756.4	
2013	13384.7	
2014	14601.7	
2015	16876.0	
2016	19796.1	
2017	20515.6	
2018	23138.8	
2019	22461.8	
2020	23109	
2021	23744	
2022	22951.4	



Golf Center, Marriott Desert Springs, Vista Del Montanas, Silver Sands, Casa

1991 Blanca

1992 West Coast Turf

1993 Sunrise

1994 Indian Ridge CC

1996 Palm Desert High School

1997 Sun City Palm Desert, Desert Willow

1998 Mountain View Falls

2006 Toscana, Shadow Hills

2012 CVWD's PDA & PDO, Indian Wells Golf Resort

2014 Classic Club, Palm Desert CC (remaining)

2016 Desert Horizons, Lakes CC, Avondale

2017 Desert Falls, Palm Valley Country Club,

2018 Indian Springs

## **NPW Connections**





## When NPW build out is complete...

33.5	Canal via Canal distribution system
23	Canal via Mid Valley Pipeline
38.5	Recycled Water/canal
10	Not planned for an Alternate Water Supply
105 95	Total Golf Courses: Nonpotable Water Source:
90%	Per Cent Using Nonpotable Water Source:







### **Thank you** Olivia Bennett Nonpotable Water Operations Manager